

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner indicated that claims 3, 9 to 11 and 14 are objected to as being dependent on a base rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitation of the base claims and any intervening claims. The Examiner's indication in this regard is gratefully acknowledged.

In this regard, claims 3, 9 and 14 have been amended to be in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 10 and 11 are dependent upon claim 9. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 3, 9 to 11 and 14 are now in an allowable form.

In the Final Action, the Examiner rejected the remaining claims on a number of grounds, namely:

- Claims 1, 2, 4 to 8 and 15 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent of Winnacher (DE 19627719A)
- Claims 12 and 13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over German Patent of Winnacher (DE 19627719A) in view of the US Patent of Jeter (4,120,097).

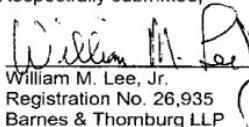
In the interests of expedited prosecution and without admitting to the correctness of the Examiner's position but rather disputing it and without prejudice to the applicants' right to pursue deleted claimed subject matter in a continuation application, these rejected claims have been deleted.

Entry of this Amendment after Final Action is requested, in that the claims now pending are all in an allowable form and hence the application thereby is in condition for allowance.

Early and favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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